

Pending Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims

SN Claim 1. (previously ^{presented} ~~amended~~) A patch bag comprising a bag and a patch, wherein:

(A) the bag comprises a first heat-shrinkable film, the bag having an open top, a bottom seal, and a side-seal at a first side edge of the bag; and

(B) the patch comprises a second heat-shrinkable film, the patch covering a portion of a seamless second side edge of the bag and at least a portion of both a first lay-flat side of the bag and a second lay-flat side of the bag;

wherein the bag comprises a first film and the patch comprises a second film, and the side-seal is through the first film but not through the second film and the patch does not extend to either the bottom seal or the side seal, and the patch covers more than 50 percent across the width of each of the lay-flat sides of the bag.

SN Claim 2. (previously ^{presented} ~~amended~~) The patch bag according to Claim 1, wherein the second film has a total free shrink, at 185°F, of at least 10 percent.

SN Claim 3. (previously ^{presented} ~~amended~~) The patch bag according to Claim 1, wherein the first film is a first biaxially-oriented, heat-shrinkable film comprising an outside abuse layer, a core O₂-barrier layer, and an inside-sealant layer, and the second film is a second biaxially-oriented, heat-shrinkable film.

Claim 4. (original) The patch bag according to Claim 3, wherein:

the outside abuse layer of the first film comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer having a density of from about 0.85 to 0.95 g/cc, propylene/ethylene copolymer, polyamide, ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer, ethylene/methyl acrylate copolymer, and ethylene/butyl acrylate copolymer;

the core O₂-barrier layer of the first film comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of ethylene/vinyl alcohol copolymer, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinylidene chloride, polyamide, polyester, and polyacrylonitrile;

the inside-sealant layer of the first film comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic polyolefin, thermoplastic polyamide, thermoplastic polyester, and thermoplastic polyvinyl chloride; and

the second biaxially-oriented, heat-shrinkable film comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer having a density of from about 0.85 to 0.95 g/cc, propylene/ethylene copolymer, polyamide, ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer, ethylene/methyl acrylate copolymer, and ethylene/butyl acrylate copolymer.

SN Claim 5. (previously ^{presented} amended) The patch bag according to Claim 1, wherein the end-seal is through the first film but not through the second film.

Claim 6. (original) The patch bag according to Claim 1, wherein the patch is adhered to an outside surface of the bag.

SN Claim 7. (previously ^{presented} amended) The patch bag according to Claim 1, wherein the patch has a width of from about 20 to 190 percent, based on the width of the bag.

Claims 8-17 (canceled)

SN Claim 18. (previously ^{presented} amended) A patch bag, comprising:

(A) a lay-flat heat-shrinkable bag having an open top, a bottom seal, a first lay-flat side, a second lay-flat side, a seamless first side edge, and a seamless second side edge;

(B) a heat-shrinkable patch covering:

(i) across an entirety of a width of the first lay-flat side of the bag;

(ii) a portion of the seamless first side edge; and

(iii) a portion of the seamless second side edge; and

(C) a backseamed seal in the second lay-flat side of the bag, the backseamed seal running the length of the bag, wherein the bag comprises a first film and the patch comprises a second film, and the backseamed seal is through the first film but not through the second film and the patch does not extend to the backseamed seal;

wherein the patch does not cover the bottom of the bag, the patch does not extend to the bottom seal, and the bottom seal is through the bag and not through the patch, and the patch covers more than 50 percent across the width of each of the lay-flat sides of the bag.

Claim 19. (canceled)

SPN Claim 20. (previously ^{*presented*} ~~amended~~) A patch bag, comprising:

(A) a heat-shrinkable bag having an open top, a first side-seal, a second side-seal, and a seamless bottom edge; and

(B) a single heat-shrinkable patch which covers a portion of the seamless bottom edge of the bag, at least a portion of an outside surface of a first lay-flat side of the bag, and at least a portion of an outside surface of a second lay-flat side of the bag, the single patch having a length of from about 101 to 200 percent of a length of the bag, wherein the bag

comprises a first film and the patch comprises a second film, and the first and second side seals are through the first film but not through the second film and the patch does not extend to either the first side seal or the second side seal.

Claim 21. (canceled)

Encl Claim 22. (previously ^{presented} ~~amended~~) The patch bag according to Claim 1, wherein the patch is adhered to an outside surface of the bag.

Encl Claim 23. (previously ^{presented} ~~added~~) The patch bag according to Claim 1, wherein the first film has a thickness of from about 1.5 to 5 mils, and the second film has a thickness of from about 2 to 8 mils.

Encl Claim 24. (previously ^{presented} ~~added~~) The patch bag according to Claim 23, wherein the second film has a thickness of from about 3 to 6 mils.

Encl Claim 25. (previously ^{presented} ~~added~~) The patch bag according to Claim 1, wherein the bag has only one patch adhered thereto.

Encl 26. (previously ^{presented} ~~added~~) The patch bag according to Claim 18, wherein the bag comprises a first biaxially-oriented, heat-shrinkable film comprising an outside abuse layer, a core O₂-barrier layer, and an inside-sealant layer, and the patch comprises a second biaxially-oriented, heat-shrinkable film.

Sum 27. (previously ^{*presented*} ~~added~~) The patch bag according to Claim 26, wherein:

the outside abuse layer comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer having a density of from about 0.85 to 0.95 g/cc, propylene/ethylene copolymer, polyamide, ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer, ethylene/methyl acrylate copolymer, and ethylene/butyl acrylate copolymer;

the core O₂-barrier layer of the first film comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of ethylene/vinyl alcohol copolymer, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinylidene chloride, polyamide, polyester, and polyacrylonitrile;

the inside-sealant layer of the first film comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic polyolefin, thermoplastic polyamide, thermoplastic polyester, and thermoplastic polyvinyl chloride; and

the second biaxially-oriented, heat-shrinkable film comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer having a density of from about 0.85 to 0.95 g/cc, propylene/ethylene copolymer, polyamide, ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer, ethylene/methyl acrylate copolymer, and ethylene/butyl acrylate copolymer.

Sum 28. (previously ^{*presented*} ~~amended~~) The patch bag according to Claim 18, wherein the bag comprises a first film and the patch comprises a second film, and wherein the backseamed seal is through the first film but not through the second film.

Sum 29. (previously ^{*presented*} ~~added~~) The patch bag according to Claim 18, wherein the first film is a heat-shrinkable film and the second film is a heat-shrinkable film.

30. (previously ^{presented} added) The patch bag according to Claim 18, wherein the patch has a width of from about 20 to 190 percent, based on the width of the bag.

31. (previously ^{presented} added) The patch bag according to Claim 20, wherein the first side seal is through the first film but not through the second film, and the second side seal is through the first film but not through the second film.

32. (previously ^{presented} added) The patch bag according to Claim 20, wherein the first film is a heat-shrinkable film and the second film is a heat-shrinkable film.

33. (previously ^{presented} added) The patch bag according to Claim 20, wherein the patch has a width of from about 20 to 190 percent, based on the width of the bag.

34. (previously ^{presented} amended) The patch bag according to Claim 20, wherein the first film is a biaxially-oriented, heat-shrinkable film comprising an outside abuse layer, a core O₂-barrier layer, and an inside-sealant layer, and the second film is a second biaxially-oriented, heat-shrinkable film.

35. (previously ^{presented} added) The patch bag according to Claim 34, wherein:

the outside abuse layer comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer having a density of from about 0.85 to 0.95 g/cc, propylene/ethylene copolymer, polyamide, ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer, ethylene/methyl acrylate copolymer, and ethylene/butyl acrylate copolymer;

the core O₂-barrier layer of the first film comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of ethylene/vinyl alcohol copolymer, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinylidene chloride, polyamide, polyester, and polyacrylonitrile;

the inside-sealant layer of the first film comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic polyolefin, thermoplastic polyamide, thermoplastic polyester, and thermoplastic polyvinyl chloride; and

the second biaxially-oriented, heat-shrinkable film comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer having a density of from about 0.85 to 0.95 g/cc, propylene/ethylene copolymer, polyamide, ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer, ethylene/methyl acrylate copolymer, and ethylene/butyl acrylate copolymer.

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36. (previously ^{*presented*} added) The patch bag according to Claim 2, wherein the first film and the second film each have a total free shrink, at 185°F, of at least 20 percent.

37. (previously ^{*presented*} added) The patch bag according to Claim 29, wherein the first film and the second film each have a total free shrink, at 185°F, of at least 10 percent.

38. (previously ^{*presented*} added) The patch bag according to Claim 37, wherein the first film and the second film each have a total free shrink, at 185°F, of at least 20 percent.

39. (previously ^{*presented*} added) The patch bag according to Claim 32, wherein the first film and the second film each have a total free shrink, at 185°F, of at least 10 percent.

40. (previously ^{*presented*} added) The patch bag according to Claim 39, wherein the first film and the second film each have a total free shrink, at 185°F, of at least 20 percent.